25th February 1929]

Starting of Forest Panchayats in Ganjam district.

* 1442 *Q.*—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any steps to start Forest Panchayats in the Ganjam district specially in the unreserved forests of Goomsur and Mohirry; and

(*b*) if not, whether they will be pleased to instruct the District Forest Officer, Ganjam, to begin the investigation of the same?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No. All the reserve forests in the Ganjam district are class I forests which are to be retained permanently under the Forest department. The Government have no information regarding the unreserves referred to.

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"With reference to the answer given to clause (*a*), may I know whether the Government have considered it proper to class the whole of Goomsur and Mohirry forests as class I forests and, if so, whether they base their decision on their own opinion or upon the opinion of the Chief Conservator of Forests?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Generally the decision of the Government in all such matters is based upon the reports of heads of departments."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo:—"May I know when this report was submitted by the Chief Conservator of Forests?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Removal of forest boundaries in South Arcot district from neighbouring villages.

* 1443 *Q.*—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any and if so, what steps have been taken from 1923 to the end of August 1928 in the district of South Arcot to move the boundaries of reserved forests away from villages whose agricultural lands or village sites were situated within a mile or half a mile of such boundaries; and

(*b*) how much of reserved forests were disafforested for this purpose and the villages concerned?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No inconvenience on account of proximity of reserved forest was complained of by the ryots of any villages in this district and consequently no reserves or portions of reserves were disafforested on this account.

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether any attempt was made by the District Forest Officer concerned to ascertain the opinion of the ryots who were immediately affected by these reserved forests?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No complaint of any kind was received from the ryots and there was no necessity therefore to make any enquiry."